

11 February 2021

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Via email: Natalie.Akoorie@rnz.co.nz

Tēnā koe / Dear Natalie

Official Information Act Request – OIA 13295 Art works

On 21 December 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

1. How many pieces of art does the DHB own? Art includes any artwork, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, statues, photographs, or any other types of art.
2. Please state what the art is - eg a painting, who the artist is, whether the art was donated or purchased, and the value of the artwork. If a sculpture or statue, what or who does the art depict?
3. If the artwork was purchased, how much did it cost to buy and when was it bought?
4. What is the combined total value of all of the DHB's art?
5. Where is the artwork housed? eg, which hospital, building, wing, ward?
6. Has the DHB ever donated or loaned any art and if so to who, when, for how long and why?
7. Is the art insured and if so for how much? Has any art ever been stolen and if so was it recovered?
8. Has any of the art ever been damaged and repaired and if so when, and how was it damaged?
9. Has the DHB ever undertaken an art audit and if so when?
10. What is the benefit to patients of the artwork?

Please find below the Whanganui District Health Board response:

- 1. How many pieces of art does the DHB own? Art includes any artwork, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, statues, photographs, or any other types of art.**

WDHB Art and Archives Group inventory itemises approximately 290 art works at Whanganui Hospital.

- 2. Please state what the art is - eg a painting, who the artist is, whether the art was donated or purchased, and the value of the artwork. If a sculpture or statue, what or who does the art depict?**

Photographs

252 photographs in a variety of formats from over 2m in length to A4, by local photographers, printed and mounted using donated funds and time. Estimated values range from under \$10 to \$800.

Paintings and Prints

27 Paintings and prints – all by local artists and no individual pieces with an estimated value of more than \$500.

Wall Hangings, Plaques and Carvings

One tukutuku panel and three woven works, all by local artists, as well as other works including: tapa cloth; smaller tukutuku panels; harakeke works; carved wall pieces, ceramic wall art and other donated pieces.

3. If the artwork was purchased, how much did it cost to buy and when was it bought?

As above most art has been donated over time by appreciative patients, whānau, local artists, local community and service organisations as well as current and former staff.

Two paintings that have been purchased by WDHB, using donated funds:

- a) Brightly coloured depiction of Whanganui scenes, for the Children's Ward. Purchased for \$500 in 2018 and painted by a local artist.
- b) Painting of a dog sleeping on his master's boot, for the entrance to the Children's Ward. Purchased in 2018 for \$500 by a local artist.
- c) One tukutuku panel and three woven works were purchased before 2018, by local artists, for approximately \$12,000 in total.

4. What is the combined total value of all of the DHB's art?

It is difficult to assess the value especially of some of the older items. The vast majority of WDHB artworks would have a higher sentimental and historical value than dollar value.

Best estimate of value:

Photographs - \$12,000

Paintings - \$4,000

Wall hangings, plaques and carvings - \$13,000.

Best estimate of total value of WDHB art \$29,000.

5. Where is the artwork housed? eg, which hospital, building, wing, ward?

Art is displayed throughout WDHB buildings with a focus on where patients, whānau and staff will get the most benefit.

6. Has the DHB ever donated or loaned any art and if so to who, when, for how long and why?

No

7. Is the art insured and if so for how much? Has any art ever been stolen and if so was it recovered?

Art becomes part of WDHB facilities for on-going maintenance and therefore is insured under the general contents' insurance policy.

No art has been stolen.

8. Has any of the art ever been damaged and repaired and if so when, and how was it damaged?

No major damage has been incurred.

9. Has the DHB ever undertaken an art audit and if so when?

WDHB Arts & Archives Group keeps an inventory of art works. A photograph is filed of the most significant art pieces.

10. What is the benefit to patients of the artwork?

WDHB has a vision of He Hāpori Ora – Thriving Communities. Central to achieving that vision, through our strategy, planning and activity, is keeping people well in their own communities and homes. However, when people need hospital-level care it is important that the environment is welcoming and calming. WDHB aims to use art works to bring the community into what would otherwise be a very clinical environment.

WDHB has focused on large format photographs depicting the whole district so our patients and whānau from across the rohe can feel more at ease.

International research has shown that patients that have art in their environment heal faster. Further studies have found that images of nature can reduce pain, anxiety and stress.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Ngā mihi / Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson
Chief Executive